United Nations A/HRC/31/NGO/48

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 February 2016

English only

Human Rights Council
Thirty-first session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[10 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.16-02315(E)

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The Bitter Harvest of Five-Year Violations against Bahraini Women

Bahrain is still among the countries that have prisoners of opinion and conscience. The Bahraini women are exposed to violations of local and international law and the customs of the Bahraini society.
The Bahraini women live amid the worst conditions of various violations by the Bahraini authorities. An escalation of the systematic abuse of women was recorded after the protests of February 2011.

The statistics, monitoring, and human rights records of Bahrain within the period of 2011-2014 show the arrest of 302 Bahraini ladies among them 3 female children. Among these cases were 72 arrests in the work site, and 65 arrests by summons, and 58 arrests of women from medical staff. There are still prisoners in the Bahraini prisons, noting that some of the prisoners were detained from their homes after midnight.

A woman was killed because of the violence of the security forces against women and the use of excessive force against peaceful demonstrators. More than 14 women were killed by various means of violence and official oppression. Others, like Baheyya , were killed by the live ammunition of the army, or by toxic gases and suffocation like the victim Amina Al-Sayed Mahdi (36 years old) in March 2013 in Abu Saiba area. In addition, Riot Police spread terrorism and the horror during house raids and terrorized innocent people. Some women have lost their fetuses due to the inhalation of poisonous gases used by anti-riot forces on homes and heavily targeted to harm citizens illegally.
The report of the Bahraini Fact Finding Commission revealed that dozens of people were threatened with raping their sisters, their wives and even mothers to give confessions. This was stated in paragraph No. 1190 and in the cases of Annex II of the report on the summaries of statements, namely cases No. 7, 18, 26, 37, 52, etc.
Within the last years, raiding and breaking into more than 5,000 homes and private property occurred. The owners of the houses are always insulted and cursed. Most of the victims are women, they are always insulted, their bedrooms are broken into abruptly after cracking the house doors, as documented in paragraph 1126 of the committee's fact-finding report "women are asked to stand up in their pajamas and they were not allowed to cover their bodies, which caused them embarrassment and humiliation according to their religious beliefs"(Bassyuni). He added that "masked security personnel were armed, the use of weapons spread terror among the inhabitants of the houses."

According to statistics, more than 80% of the cases of incursions into homes are illegal. Tools and personal property are robbed then returned women in many cases.
Arrests of women occurred in a humiliating way and time where the basic rules of dealing with women are not considered. Women are exposed to insults, abuse, and rape. Mr. Bassyuni's report documented a number of cases that revealed shocking crimes carried out by the security forces, and abuses of Bahraini women by the security personnel at checkpoints and in the attack on the houses and in detention, public streets, which contradict laws, religion, traditions and international covenants.
Bahraini authorities have continued, in 2015, multiple ways of women's detention including the worst raids of homes without showing the legal authorization, causing them great humiliation which violates community and legal norms.
In 2015, the number of women who have been arrested for political grounds was monitored. There are 23 cases of abuse including 8 cases of arrests among them two female children. Some of them were released later, making the total number of detention cases 310 within the period 2011-August 2015.

Some Cases of Women's Detention:

1- Tiba Darweesh Eisa Ali Ibrahim (41 years old)

Was arrested on May 14 / May 2015 raid on her house during the raid have been some damage to the contents of the home and the confiscation of electronic devices from her home and charged with charged with harboring some wanted man, and is still detained.
2. Laila Ali Ibrahim short (female, 43)
She was arrested in May 2015 by raid on her house. During the raid some of the items were damaged and electronic devices were confiscated. She was charged with hiding some wanted men, and she is still detained.
2. Laila Ali Ibrahim Quseer (female, 43 years old)

She was arrested with her husband in April 2015 by a raid of their real estate office and a wanted man, Muhammad Qaffas, was arrested. His home in the same building was raided. Her son is 15 years old and he tried to to prevent them from arresting his father, they arrested him but subsequently they released the boy and the woman is still detained.

Patterns of Violations:
1. Women were exposed to outlaw murder or what leads to murder.
2. The women had been arbitrarily arrested in a degrading manner in many governmental departments and public utilities.
3. Some women were subjected to torture and ill-treatment in the public streets by the security authorities during the arrest.
4. A number of female prisoners were exposed to sexual harassment and threats of rape.
5. Family, including women and children were intimidated during raids by security elements.
6. Robbery of precious women's property during the raids.

Recommendations:
1. The Bahraini authorities are required to stop the practice of breaching the law represented by the violence against women.
2. Release of prisoners of opinion who have been imprisoned for political grounds and compensating them financially and morally.
3. We urge the member states of the Bahraini Human Rights Council to compel accountability on those involved in the violations against the female detainees and hold them accountable for violating the code of conduct for law enforcement officials and local and international charters.

Bahrain Forum For Human Rights, an NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.